**School/Classroom**

**a Teaching Approach to Religious Education**

**based on the Liturgical Year & Grow in Love**

**November**



**Calendar**

**Feast of Christ The King**

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| Feast of Christ The King |
| 2021 | **November 21** |  |
| 2022 | **November 20** |  |
| 2023 | **November 26** |  |
| 2024 | **November 24** |  |
| 2025 | **November 23** |  |

**Advent**

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| First Sunday of Advent  |
| 2021 | **November 28** |  |
| 2022 | **November 27** |  |
| 2023 | **December 3** |  |
| 2024 | **December 1** |  |
| 2025 | **November 30** |  |

**Liturgical Year: Ordinary Time November**

**A Note on November**

**The Feast of All Saints,** or, as it is more commonly known All Saints Day is celebrated on **November 1.** Saints are ordinary men and women who showed God’s love by doing extraordinary things. The way in which the saints live their lives tells us something about how we might live as followers of Jesus Christ living as faithful Christians. There are saints whose goodness, sacrifice and extraordinary deeds have been officially recognised by the Church and have been canonised. These saints have their own feast day, like St Willibrord who we remember on November 7. The Feast of All Saints gives us an opportunity to remember and celebrate all those who have led good and holy lives. They may not ever be canonised but, they are saints in the eyes of their families, friends and communities. The Feast of All Saints is a **holy day of obligation,** so all Catholics are asked to go to Mass.

On **November 2,** we celebrate the **Feast of All Souls** when we remember and pray for all who have died. Traditionally, in the Catholic Church, the month of November is a time when we pray for the dead. Many churches will have a Book of Remembrance for those who have died and the List of the Dead is still written by many families and brought to the church where the names are remembered and prayed for at Masses during the month.

**The Feast of Christ the King,** the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, usually falls towards the end of November, see calendar on page 2. There must always be four Sundays between it and Christmas Day. This feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925. He did this at a time when there was a Great Recession throughout the world and Europe was in turmoil; Mussolini and the Blackshirts ruled Italy and Adolf Hitler was gathering supporters in Germany. Pope Pius XI’ decision to introduce a feast in which Jesus Christ was called king was to show the contrast between the kind of world Jesus wanted us to live in and that created by dictators and those who had very different values. In 1969 Pope Paul VI changed the date of this feast and it became the last Sunday in the Liturgical Year.

**Whole School:**

**Saints We Know:** Each class might do a project on a saint whose life is of interest to them; perhaps, the saint after which the school, parish or local churches are named. There may be a saint associated with the parish through a Holy Well or sacred site to which a pilgrimage could be organised. A school assembly on our favourite saints would offer an opportunity to share information and learn together.

**Souls:** A Book of Remembrance might be placed in the School Prayer Space in which the children/staff could write the names of those they know who have died. A bare tree branch might also be used. Children could write the names of those who have died on a leaf and place it on the tree

**Consider:** APrayer Service or Assembly on the theme of the Saints or Remembering those who have died’

There are useful Prayer Service Resources in Grow in Love

* Junior Infants page 239 (In November we remember)
* Senior Infants page 267 (In November we remember)
* 1st Class page 289 (The Feast of All Saints)
* 2nd Class page 289 (Celebrating the Saints)
* 3rd Class page 345 (There are many rooms in my Father’s House)
* 4th Class page 416 (Eternal Life)
* 5th Class page 401 (Death and Eternal Life)
* 6th Class pages 467-468 (Preparing for Eternal Life)

**Parish Connection:** Talk to your priest or parish team member about Masses during the month of November and how best the school could join in prayer with the parish community in remembering those who have died. Invite the priest or parish team member to lead the school in prayer during the month; to include the names in the School Book of Remembrance in the prayer of the parish.

**Prayer Space/Display Boards**

Ensure that the Prayer Space/Display Board in the Entrance Area reflects the time of year.

Pictures of saints, stories about saints or local people who may be unofficial saints.

**Liturgical Feasts:**

* All Saints November 1
* All Souls November 2
* St Martin de Porres November 3
* All Saints of Ireland November 6
* St Willibrord November 7
* St Frances Xavier Cabrini November 13 (Extra Resource included Level 4)
* St Margaret of Scotland November 16 (Extra Resource included Level 4)
* St Rose Philippine Duchense November 18 (Extra Resource included Level 4)
* St Cecilia November 22 (Extra Resource included Level 4)

**Revise & Learn Prayers & Responses**

***Encourage children to bless themselves properly and intentionally at the beginning and end of prayer times. Lead by example***

* **Level 1:**

**‘**May they rest in peace’ Junior Infants

‘Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace’ Senior Infants

* Level 2:

‘May they rest in peace’ First Class

Litany response: ‘pray for us’ Second Class

* Level 3:

‘Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord’ Third Class

Hail Mary

‘Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord Fourth Class

and let perpetual light shine upon them’

The Apostles’ Creed

* Level 4:

‘Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord 5th & 6th Class

and let perpetual light shine upon them’

Lord hear us; Lord graciously hear us. 6th Class

**November in the Primary RE Curriculum**

**Level 1: In November we Remember**

Grow in Love (Junior & Senior Infants)

Seasonal Lesson 2 p233 & Seasonal Lesson 1 page 261

**Christian Faith Strand**

* God wants all people to be happy with him forever in heaven
* When we die, we go home to God

**Mystery of God**

* God created us to share life with him in heaven, our true home.

**Level 2**  **Celebrating the Saints in November**

Grow in Love (First Class and Second Class)

Seasonal Lesson 2 p281 and 283

**Christian Faith Strand**

**Mystery of The Church**

**•** Patron saint of the school

• Saints are those who love God and are in heaven with God after death. The Church honours them with a feast day

• Saints are a great example of how to live and Christians ask their help in prayer

**Eternal Life**

* Jesus promised new life here on earth and after we die

We believe that:

* When we die, God calls us to heaven
* God’s plan is that when we die, we will live on with God, Jesus, Mary, the angels and saints in heaven
* Heaven is our true and final home after our life on earth where we will be happy with God

**Liturgy and Prayer Strand**

**Liturgical Year**

* The Feast of All Saints is a time to celebrate the lives of all those women, men, and children who show us how to follow Jesus
* On the Feast of All Souls the Church remembers those who have died and prays for them

**Level 3: Eternal Life**

Grow in Love (3rd & 4th Classes)

Seasonal Lesson 1 page 341 and page 407

**Christian Faith Strand**

* Saints: explore one or more of the following saints: St Mary Magdalene, St Brendan, St Clare, St Kevin, St Columban, local saints, other witnesses to Christ in the past
* Christian spirituality and pilgrimage: places of pilgrimage in Ireland and the wider world

**Liturgy and Prayer Strand**

* Special places of worship Catholics respect, e.g. monasteries, holy wells, pilgrimage sites
* Prayers to the saints
* Throughout the liturgical year the Church recognises and celebrates the lives of martyrs and saints.
* The Feast of All Saints is a holy day of the Church honouring all saints, known and unknown. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. The eve of All Saints is known as All Hallows eve or Halloween.
* On the Feast of All Souls Catholics pray for the dead to ask God to purify them with his love and bring them to eternal happiness in heaven

**Level 4: Death & Eternal Life & Preparing for Eternal Life**

Grow in Love (5th & 6th Classes)

Seasonal Lesson 1 page 389 and page 457

**Confirmation Name:** This is a very appropriate time for children preparing for Confirmation to choose their Confirmation name. Encourage the children to research their chosen name and to display their projects.

* St Frances Xavier Cabrini November 13 (Extra Resource included Level 4)
* St Margaret of Scotland November 16 (Extra Resource included Level 4)
* St Rose Philippine Duchense November 18 (Extra Resource included Level 4)
* St Cecilia November 22 (Extra Resource included Level 4)

**Christian Faith Strand**

**Saints**

* The Communion of Saints: the belief that all of God’s people in heaven, on earth and in purgatory are connected in communion
* The Church declares certain people as saints because of their great holiness, because it is certain that they are in heaven and because they are models of holiness for us.
* What inspired the saints is of more lasting importance than the details of their lives.
* Saints: Explore one or more of the following, St Vincent de Paul, St Catherine of Siena, St Teresa of Avila, St Joan of Arc, St Benedict, St Peter, St Paul, St Maximilian Kolbe, St Padre Pio, St Teresa of Calcutta, Other people who have shown Christian values at work, Rosa Parks, Dorothy Day, Nano Nagle, Jean Vanier, local holy people
* Contemporary witnesses to Christ
* Islam: Pilgrimage to Mecca

**The Dead**

* Catholics pray for the souls in purgatory on All Souls Day and all through the year
* Purgatory: those who die in God’s grace and friendship…..although they are assured of their eternal salvation, undergo a purification after death, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of God

**Word of God Strand**

* The prophets preached justice, morality and faithfulness to God (e.g. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea and Ezekiel, John the Baptist)
	+ Isaiah 43:1-4 I have called you by your name
	+ Jeremiah 1:4-9 Call of Jeremiah
	+ Jeremiah 22:3, 13, 15-16 True religion does justice

**Liturgy and Prayer Strand**

* Teach the children the prayer for the dead, ‘Eternal Rest’
* On the Feast of All Saints, we celebrate all saints, known and unknown, and ask for their prayers and intercessions
* On the Feast of All Souls the Church commemorates and prays for the holy souls in purgatory, undergoing purification of their sins before entering heaven

**Christian Morality**

* Stories of contemporary Christians who live their religious beliefs

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| November  |
| Information | Notes |
| Liturgical Season | Ordinary Time: Green until Advent begins (purple) |  |
| Feast Days Other Themes | All Saints November 1All Souls November 2All Saints of Ireland November 6**Saints** **Remembering**   |
| Prayer Space Elements To be added during the Month  | Green Cloth, Candle, Bible, Crucifix  |
| Prayer/s to be Revised/learned |  |
| Prayers to be prayed Morning, Lunch Time, Evening |  |  |
| Grow in Love Theme/s to be Explored |  |  |
| Homework to be Assigned  |  |  |
| Opportunities for Curricular Integration  |  |  |

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_